(b) There are no formal arrangement .for conducting border trade between India and any of these countries. However, all possible steps are taken to promote bilateral trade between India and these countries through exchange of- delegations -at official/business levels, participation in trade fairs and operating bilateral trade Agreement/Treaties, except in the case of Pakistan, to facilitate smooth flow of goods between:India- and these countries. It is as a result of trade promotion measures that bilateral trade with these countries has been on the increase during the last three years.

(c) The exchange rate of rupee with the currencies of these countries as on the last day of the years 1989 to 1991 and on 2nd, December, 1992 are as under :

(Indian Rs. 100 equal to)

Effective Date	Bangladesh (Taka) (*)	Pakistan (Pakistani Rupee) (*)	Sri Lanka (Sri Lankan Rupee) (*)	Nepal (Nepalese Rupee) (**)	Bhutan (Ngultrum) (**)
31-12-89 . . .	189.4325	126.0525	234.8075	167.56	100
31-12-90 . . .	198.03	121.3650	222.65	167.79	100
31-12-91 . . .	148.3325	95.2825	163.52	163.827	100
02-12-92 . . .	150.6375	99.0125	172.185	154.178	100

(*) These are Asian Clearing Union (ACU) countries. The rate quoted is middle of the buying and selling rates of RBI.

(**) Since they are not member of ACU, RBI are not quoting any rates However, the rates arrived at by RBI through the rates of these currencies against the dollar are furnished above.

Fall in Export to Earetwhile U.S.S.R.

1658. DR. YELAMANCHILI SHIVAJI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our exports to erstwhile U.S.S.R, are getting down; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The principal, reasons for the decline are (i) ongoing political and economic changes taking place in the erstwhile USSR/CIS (ii) the shortage of hard currency available with them for imports in general and including from India, (iii) the declining production across various sectors of the economy resulting in shortfalls in their exports including to India and the consequent non-generation of resources for exports of protocol items from India to Russia.

The steps taken to boost our exports to the countries of the erstwhile USSR include :—

(i) Separate trade agreements and protocols have been signed with the majority of the republics of the erstwhile Soviet Union.

(ii) Greater marketing thrust in the changed economic environment including more effective participation in Trade Fairs Exhibitions, Buyerseller Meets, etc.

(iii) Promotion of direct contracts at the commercial enterprises level.

(iv) Greater emphasis on new forms of cooperation, such as joint ventures.

(v) A liberal counter-trade mechanism has been put into place by the Ministry of Commerce enabling importers/exporters to buy several essential commodities including fertilisers, non-ferrous metals, steel items, metal scrap and newsprint through the counter trade regime.